An Inventory of Yukon Climate Change Initiatives

Yukon Climate Change Coordinating Committee

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1 Overview

Climate change is emerging as one of the most significant environmental issues facing the planet, and particularly the north. The growing number of initiatives to address climate change in the Yukon reflects this importance.

The initiatives in this inventory range from workshops on climate change and financial incentives to improve energy efficiency; to greenhouse gas research and energy management plans for government buildings. Together these initiatives focus on the range of solutions needed to address climate change.

The Yukon government has taken on a leadership role for many of the climate change initiatives. In many cases, the Federal government and Yukon College have also played a strong part in implementing the initiatives. The City of Whitehorse, Village of Mayo and Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation, and Council for Yukon First Nations have also started working on climate change.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to keep track of all of the climate change initiatives. That is why *An Inventory of Yukon Climate Change Initiatives* was produced. It will be used as a resource for the Yukon Climate Change Coordinating Committee and other organizations working on climate change, and for the work towards the development of a Yukon Climate Change Strategy.

In the next section of this document, you will find a list of climate change initiatives arranged by lead organization. The status, joint participants and theme are noted for each initiative. The themes that are used to broadly describe the type of initiative are consistent with the ones used in *A Compendium of Canadian Initiatives: Taking Action on Climate Change*. The themes include enhancing awareness and understanding, investing in knowledge, encouraging action, government leading by example, and developing technology.

Part 2 shows the highlights of the initiatives divided into five themes, Part 3 gives a closer look at the initiatives, and Part 4 shows all climate changes initiatives at a glance in alphabetical order. This provides a quick reference of all of the Yukon Climate Change Initiatives.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YUKON CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES

Theme #1: Enhance Public Awareness and Understanding

Initiative	Lead Organization	Joint Participants	Status
Climate Change Essay Contest	Canadian Polar Commission	Education, Trans North Helicopters	Initiated
Energy Awareness Month	Economic Development		Ongoing
Energy Fair	Economic Development	Renewable Resources	1998
Experiential High School Program	Education		Ongoing
Northern Climate Exchange www.taiga.net/nce	Northern Climate Exchange, Yukon College	Environment Canada, Renewable Resources, Economic Development, Yukon College	Ongoing
Climate Change Resources for Northern Educators	Northern Climate Exchange, Yukon College	Renewable Resources, Education, Yukon College	Ongoing
Central Yukon Climate Change Workshop	Northern Climate Exchange, Yukon College	Village of Mayo, Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation, Renewable Resources, Economic Development	2001
Community Consultation Program	Northern Climate Exchange, Yukon College	Environment Canada, Renewable Resources	2000
Public Education and Outreach Hub (PEO-HUB)	Northern Climate Exchange, Yukon College	Renewable Resources, Economic Development, Environment Canada, Yukon College	Proposed
Workshop – Taking Action on Climate Change in the Yukon	Northern Climate Exchange, Yukon College	Renewable Resources, Economic Development, Environment Canada, Yukon college	Completed
Vehicle emissions testing	Renewable Resources	Environment Canada, City of Whitehorse	1998-Present
Public Awareness Fact Sheets	Renewable Resources	Yukon Energy Corporation	1999

Theme #2: Invest In Knowledge

Initiative	Lead Organization	Joint Participants	Status
Old Crow Flats Wetlands Assessment	Environment Canada		Ongoing
Sustainability of Arctic Communities Under Climate Change	Environment Canada		Ongoing
Impact of Climate Change on Migratory Caribou	Environment Canada		1998-Present
Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op	Environment Canada		1994-Present
Northern Climate Change Schools Program	Northern Climate Exchange, Yukon College	Education, Renewable Resources	Initiated
Database of Northern Climate Change Information	Northern Climate Exchange, Yukon College	Environment Canada, Yukon College	Initiated
Database of Northern Climate Change Researchers and Practitioners	Northern Climate Exchange, Yukon College	Environment Canada, Yukon College	Initiated
Circumpolar Climate Change Summit	Northern Climate Exchange, Yukon College	Government of Canada, Economic Development, Renewable Resources	2001
Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Research Network	Northern Climate Exchange, Yukon College	Northern Territorial Governments, Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Yukon College	Proposed
Plantwatch	Renewable Resources	Environment Canada	Ongoing
International Tundra Experiment	Renewable Resources	Environment Canada	Ongoing
Environmental Monitoring Herschel Island	Renewable Resources	Carleton University, Agriculture Canada	1985-Present
Wolf Creek Research Basin	Renewable Resources	Indian and Northern Affairs, Environment Canada, Renewable Resources	1992-Present
Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the Yukon	Renewable Resources	Executive Council Office, Economic Development, Yukon Conservation Society	1999
Transportation Survey	Renewable Resources	Economic Development, Executive Council Office	1999
Renewable Energy Resource Assessment	Yukon Development Corporation	Yukon Energy Corporation	Initiated
Consumer Training	Yukon Housing Corporation	Yukon College	1992-Present
Home Shows	Yukon Housing Corporation	Yukon Energy Corporation, Yukon Home Builders Association	Completed
Energy Audit	City of Whitehorse		Initiated
Greenhouse Gas Inventory for Whitehorse	City of Whitehorse		Proposed

Theme #3: Encourage Action

Initiative	Lead Organization	Joint Participants	Status
Community Development Fund	Economic Development		Ongoing
Renewable Power Sales Incentive Program	Yukon Development Corporation	Yukon Energy Corporation, Energy Solutions Centre, Yukon Electrical Company	Initiated
Energy Infrastructure Loans for Resource Development Projects	Economic Development		Ongoing
Rural Electrification Program	Economic Development	Yukon Development Corporation	1998-Present
Domestic Hot Water Timer Project	Yukon Development Corporation		2000-Present
Parking Lot Timer Project	Yukon Development Corporation	Government Services, Renewable Resources, City of Whitehorse, NorthwesTel, Wood Street Centre	2000-Present
Community District Energy	Government Services		Ongoing
Commercial Energy Management Program	Yukon Development Corporation	Yukon Housing Corporation, Yukon Energy Corporation	Ongoing
House Calls Program	Yukon Development Corporation	Natural Resources Canada, Yukon Energy Corporation, Yukon Conservation Society, Yukon Housing Corporation, Yukon Electrical Company, City of Whitehorse	Ongoing
Residential Energy Management Program	Yukon Development Corporation	Yukon Housing Corporation	Ongoing
C 2000	Yukon Housing Corporation		Ongoing
EnerGuide for Houses	Yukon Housing Corporation	Natural Resources Canada	Ongoing
Green Mortgage Program	Yukon Housing Corporation		Ongoing
Home Repair Program	Yukon Housing Corporation		Ongoing
R 2000	Yukon Housing Corporation	Natural Resources Canada	Ongoing
Trade Training	Yukon Housing Corporation	Yukon College, Yukon Development Corporation	Ongoing
Waste Watch	City of Whitehorse		1996-Present

Theme #4: Government Lead by Example

Initiative	Lead Organization	Joint Participants	Status
Energy Management Plan for Government Buildings	Government Services		Ongoing
Alternative Fuel Vehicles	Government Services	Community and Transportation Services	Ongoing
Mayo-Dawson Transmission Project	Yukon Energy Corporation	Yukon Development Corporation	Proposed
Anti-idling Campaign	Community and Transportation Services	Yukon Energy Corporation, Yukon Conservation Society	Initiated

Theme #5: Technology Development

Initiative	Lead Organization	Joint Participants	Status
Wind Research and Development	Yukon Development Corporation	Economic Development, Government Services, Community and Transportation Services	Initiated
Green Power Initiative	Yukon Development Corporation	Economic Development, Government Services	Initiated
Energy Solutions Centre	Yukon Development Corporation	Natural Resources Canada, Economic Development, Government Services, Renewable Resources, Yukon Housing Corporation	2000-Present

3 A Closer Look at the Initiatives

Climate Change Essay Contest

The Canadian Polar Commission is inviting submissions for their second annual climate change essay contest. The contest is open to all students, Grades 9-12 enrolled in Yukon secondary schools. Essays must address the effects of climate change on any aspect of the Yukon environment such as vegetation, lakes and rivers, wildlife, insects, and humans.

Old Crow Flats Wetlands Assessment

Environment Canada, in partnership with Laval University, is conducting a retrospective analysis of changes in water cover of the Old Crow Flats. The Old Crow Flats is a Ramsar site (a wetland of international significance). Satellite imagery is being used to track changes in this permafrost-melt landscape. Residents of the aboriginal community of Old Crow have told scientists that the wetlands are drying up due to the changing climate. This Northern Ecosystem Initiative demonstration project is developing methodology that can be applied to other extensive northern wetlands.

Sustainability of Arctic Communities under Climate Change

This project looks at a range of indicators of ecosystem and community sustainability in relation to climate change, oil development and tourism. Environment Canada carries out caribou research for this project and works on the U.S. National Science Foundation project, which involves three Canadian communities.

Impact of Climate Change on Migratory Caribou

Herd-specific assessments and other tools are used to evaluate public policy options. This research project is led by Environment Canada Northern Conservation Division and extends across northern North America.

Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op

Environment Canada Northern Conservation Division coordinates the Co-op. Participants are co-management bodies, First Nation and Inuvialuit organizations, government agencies and university researchers. Activities include monitoring, data synthesis and communications. Science-based and traditional knowledge are used. Climate change is a key focus of the Co-op.

Anti-idling Campaign

The Transportation Division of Community and Transportation Services is conducting a Vehicle Idling Reduction campaign for its employees during the winter of 2000/01. Through a series of fact sheets, the project aims to raise awareness about the environmental and financial costs of vehicle idling and discourage this practice. The effectiveness of the campaign will be assessed through a short questionnaire, as well as the calculation of maintenance vehicle fuel use. Based on these results, the program will be modified and possibly expanded to reach the entire department, Yukon Government and/or the general public.

Community Development Fund

This program assists municipal and First Nations governments and community non-profit organizations to implement projects to improve the quality of community life. A wide range of projects is eligible for funding. Energy-related projects have included wind energy monitoring, solar power for a summer camp, an educational wind turbine for a school, a wood-fired district energy system, and a series of workshops to increase energy efficiency in recreation facilities.

Energy Awareness Month

This education/awareness campaign is held each year in November. The campaign includes speakers, workshops, and articles in various media.

Energy Infrastructure Loans for Resource Development Projects

This program is designed to encourage the responsible and efficient use of energy in the development of resources in the Yukon. It assists Yukon's resource development sector by deferring the high capital cost of building energy infrastructure.

Energy and Environment Calendar Contest

This contest is intended to make Yukon elementary school students aware of the relationship between the environment and energy use and production.

Rural Electrification Program

This program is available to Yukon residents in areas not serviced by utility power. It encourages the installation of renewable alternative energy systems through information and low-interest loans.

Approximately 20 solar energy projects have been completed since the program was introduced in 1998.

Energy Fair

As part of making the public aware of the effects of climate change in the north, the Departments of Economic Development and Renewable Resources co-sponsored the energy fair in 1998.

Experiential High School Program

Each year, students enrolled in this program choose from a list of thirty or forty ideas for class projects. A number of the projects have contributed to knowledge about climate change issues. Recent projects have included crocus and trembling aspen research to date the first blossoming each year, monitoring of stream temperatures and a census of the spotted frog.

Community District Energy

This program assists municipal and First Nations governments to implement district energy projects to utilize residual heat from community diesel power plants. One installation is completed at Watson Lake, heating the school and community center, with possible expansion to privately owned buildings. This installation reduces greenhouse gas production by up to 800 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. Studies are being conducted to identify potential projects in other communities.

Energy Management Plan for Government Buildings

The Yukon government is striving to set the example of sound energy management by demonstrating energy-saving systems and by providing a market for energy efficiency products and services. It has developed energy performance standards for Yukon government facilities. An overall energy management plan identifies opportunities to reduce operating costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

Alternative Fuel Vehicles

Government Services has been investigating the feasibility of using alternative fuel vehicles in the fleet. Their efforts to reduce the use of fossil fuels began with downsizing vehicle engines in 1993. They have purchased and tested propane vehicles and an electric car but have not been satisfied with the performance of these vehicles. The next step is to purchase a hybrid vehicle.

Northern Assessment of the Impacts of Climate Change: Defining our knowledge base and research priorities

The Northern Climate ExChange is working on a gap analysis of the northern climate change knowledge base. This analysis is intended to describe the level of scientific and anecdotal understanding of the impacts of climate change on northern Canada. On September 20th and 21st, 2000, the Northern Climate ExChange hosted a workshop, "A Northern Assessment of the Impacts of Climate Change". It was designed to provide researchers, First Nations, and communities with sound baseline information on what is known about climate change and its effects on northern Canada.

Northern Climate ExChange

The Northern Climate ExChange is a Yukon-based centre proposed as an exchange point for climate change study in the circumpolar north. The ExChange maintains an interactive, up-to-date website for climate change information relevant to Canada's north. The site contains information on the projects and programs underway at the Northern Climate ExChange and throughout the North. The site provides current climate change news, information, conferences, resources, funding opportunities and baseline climate data relevant to northern Canada. A new section entitled "Speak Out" provides northerners with and opportunity to share their views on current climate change issues.

Climate Change Resources for Northern Educators

The following information was assembled by a coalition of education and environmental organizations from across the north. This compilation of resources is intended to facilitate an increased awareness and understanding of climate change among students and educators in the Canadian pan-north.

Northern Climate Change Schools Program

A Project Committee was established to assist the Northern Climate ExChange in developing a proposal for a flexible, project-based pilot program called the Northern Climate Change Schools Program. The Committee is comprised of Departments of Education, Renewable Resources, non-government organizations and environmental groups from the three northern territories. The proposal involves developing an experience-based program that integrates many subject areas and maximizes the use of new technology. If approved, students at elementary and secondary grade levels and educators throughout the north will be involved in a pilot project that involves hands-on data collection, community outreach and internet exchanges and where possible in partnership with existing organizations and programs such as GLOBE, Yukon Environmental Educators Society and Plantwatch.

Database of Northern Climate Change Information

The Northern Climate ExChange is developing a database of local, traditional and scientific sources of climate change information in northern Canada. This searchable database will be posted on the NCE website and will be updated on a regular basis.

Database of Northern Climate Change Practitioners and Researchers

The Northern Climate ExChange is developing a database of practitioners and researchers involved in climate change in northern Canada. This searchable database will be posted on the NCE website and will be updated on a regular basis.

Central Yukon Climate Change Workshop

In February 2001, the Northern Climate ExChange will host a two-day workshop in Mayo to assist the Village of Mayo and Nacho N'yak Dun First Nation in a long-range planning exercise to prepare for the possible impacts of climate change on infrastructure and the environment within and surrounding the community. A graduate student at Carleton University has inventoried all available economic, social and environmental data that may indicate a change in climate in the region. At the workshop, the results of this inventory will be explored to develop a strong understanding of the local implications of climate change. This pilot project, if successful, will serve as a model for other northern communities.

Circumpolar Climate Change Summit

From March 19-21, 2001, the Northern Climate ExChange will host a 3-day Summit and exposition to share northern Canadian climate change knowledge. The exposition will showcase northern sustainable technologies, and the Summit will share circumpolar climate change knowledge with community representatives, researchers, experts and business leaders on climate change.

Community Consultation Program

During the summer of 2000 the Northern Climate ExChange carried out a Community Tour. This work was funded through the Northern Ecosystems Initiative and involved informal meetings and public information sessions in Yukon Communities including Mayo, Dawson, Watson Lake, Teslin, Faro, Haines Junction, Beaver Creek, Burwash Landing. A report and poster are being prepared to summarize the findings of the community tour.

Public Education and Outreach Hub (PEO-HUB)

In 2000-2001, a multi-stakeholder centre, the Northern Climate ExChange, was established to serve as a focal point for research and education on climate change in Canada's North. In 2001-2002, the Centre is proposed to expand its operations to represent the Yukon "hub" of the new national Public Education and Outreach Network initiative. Through its operations this year, the Northern Climate ExChange has got a head-start on this new initiative through consultation with northerners about what type of a climate change centre would be of greatest use. Pilot testing of a number of PEO initiatives has produced many lessons about what type of initiatives are desired by northerners, and what northerners would like the ExChange to accomplish that will assist in joining the national network.

Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Research Network

A national network of centres for coordinating climate change impacts and adaptation research and for disseminating information and research results (a Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Research Network, or C-CIARN) has been proposed. A node is a point of entry into a region and a region's point of entry to the national process. In other words, it serves as a communication gateway between a regional research network and the national network. To facilitate and build capacity in climate change impacts and adaptation research, maintain a database and website, and communicate research throughout the region. There will be six regional nodes (Northern Territories, BC, Ontario, Quebec, Prairies, Atlantic) and seven sectoral nodes. The three Northern Territories are proposing that a partnership approach to implementing this initiative in the north.

Workshop – Taking Action on Climate Change in the Yukon

On May 15-17, 2000, the Northern Climate ExChange hosted a workshop and public information session called "Taking Action on Climate Change in the Yukon". The purpose of the workshop was to involve First Nations, communities, industry, scientists, educators and government in developing a vision to deal with climate change in the Yukon.

Plantwatch

Plantwatch is a national program to track spring phenology. The date a plant blooms or turns green each spring is recorded. A number of northern plants have been selected as indicator species to monitor in this program. Plantwatch in the Yukon is coordinated by Renewable Resources. The program will be promoted in spring 2001.

International Tundra Experiment

The International Tundra Experiment (ITEX) site is in the alpine-tundra ecozone of the Wolf Creek Research Basin. It has been designed to study short and long-term effects of temperature warming on tundra vegetation biodiversity. ITEX sites are being set up and monitored at various locations in the circumpolar north, and all follow roughly the same protocol. Twenty treatment blocks are divided into 5 plots. Each block contains one greenhouse plot enclosed with plastic sheeting; one predator ex-closure plot enclosed in chicken wire; one with both the greenhouse and ex-closure treatment together; and one control plot with nothing. Sampling and other procedures are only done on half of each plot to keep some of the vegetation in tact.

Environmental Monitoring Herschel Island

Field inventories and mapping of soil and vegetation were conducted in 1985 and 2000 on Herschel Island as part of the initial management activities subsequent to the establishment of the island as a territorial park. Fifteen years later apparent increases in the abundance of grass species, willows and

lupine were observed. A number of projects have been established to track the changes and the possible implications for wildlife. Permafrost active layer temperatures are being monitored using thermistor probes. Herschel Island Territorial Park Rangers are conducting a number of environmental and biological monitoring projects.

Vehicle Emissions Testing

Yukon Renewable Resources, Environment Canada and the City of Whitehorse collaborate on a vehicle emission-testing clinic held each June in Whitehorse. The public is invited to bring their vehicles to the clinic for a free check of air pollutants going out of their tailpipes. Information is provided on climate change, the production of carbon dioxide (based on a correlation with gas consumption), vehicle maintenance and driving tips to reduce emissions. Participants are advised how to correct problems if the vehicle does not pass the emissions test.

Wolf Creek Research Basin

This site is used to monitor climate change, water resources, ecosystem health, biodiversity and aquatic impacts. It is recognized as an "ecosystem laboratory". One focus of research at this site has been on the energy and water balance processes to assess their sensitivity to climate change. Research at this site was initiated in 1992. Work has been funded by the Indian and Northern Affairs Arctic Environmental Strategy Program and supported by the Environment Canada National Hydrology Research Institute.

Public Awareness

In collaboration with the Yukon Energy Corporation 5 fact sheets on climate change were published in 1999. Fact sheets include: the reality of climate change (a primer), the global reality of climate change, saving money and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, transportation in the Yukon, and what's happening in climate change research. The Spring 2000 issue of the environmental and conservation education newsletter "WILD Yukon" featured climate change. This periodical is distributed to teachers and other educators through the Yukon.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the Yukon

An inventory of greenhouse gases for the Yukon was completed in 1999. The inventory produced data for 1990 (baseline year), 1995 and 1997/98. Included in the inventory are greenhouse gas sources and sinks. The final report on the inventory identifies data gaps, future research priorities and recommends an approach for developing a greenhouse gas management strategy.

Transportation Survey

Renewable Resources with the support of the Department of Economic Development and the Executive Council Office conducted a transportation survey in 1999. The survey consisted of questionnaires distributed to Yukon Government employees and employees of other businesses in the Whitehorse area about their mode of transportation to work.

Commercial Energy Management Program

The Commercial Energy Management Program (CEMP) is sponsored by the Yukon Development Corporation and administered by the Yukon Housing Corporation until March 31, 2001 and thereafter by the Energy Solutions Centre. It assists municipalities, First Nations, private building owners and tenants to implement energy-efficient renovations, including lighting retrofits and heating system improvements. The program also provides energy audits, general information and financial incentives, which are determined through an audit process. CEMP helps to reduce commercial energy use and the demand during the winter and peak periods for diesel generation.

House Calls Program

The House Calls Program is a joint initiative of the Yukon Conservation Society and Yukon Development Corporation that is made possible by the support of Natural Resources Canada, Yukon Energy Corporation and Yukon Electrical Company Limited. The program encourages residential energy efficiency and resulted in 125 house calls in Whitehorse and Dawson City in 2000 while another 2000 house calls are planned for the winter of 2000/01. Residents are provided with information on climate change and energy efficiency and each house call includes the installation of a hot water tank wrap, a compact fluorescent light bulb and demonstration of other practical measures such as faucet aerators, low flow showerhead, and window draft kits.

Residential Energy Management Program

This program is sponsored by the Yukon Development Corporation and administered by the Yukon Housing Corporation. It provides low-interest loans to replace electric heat in residences with alternative heating systems. It has resulted in more than 200 conversions since 1997, with an annual reduction of 2,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Wind Research and Development

The Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation are conducting applied research and development on wind energy on a pilot project basis. Various test sites throughout the Yukon have been monitored over the last five years and more are in progress through the Community Wind Resource Assessment Program to better determine the viability of the wind regime. Two commercial wind turbines are in production at Haeckel Hill near Whitehorse. The program's goal is to overcome the technical barriers (primarily ice accumulation) and improve the cost-competitiveness of commercial scale wind energy.

Renewable Energy Resource Assessment

The Yukon Development Corporation works to identify Yukon's renewable energy resource potential on a comprehensive and systematic basis to assess the value for future supply. This involves assessments, database development, mapping renewable hydro potential for wind, geo-thermal and biomass resources, as well as pilot projects such as the commissioning of a portable solar/hybrid prototype and investigating hydro feasibility. The Renewable Energy Resource Assessment also monitors and participates in initiatives that impact on land use such as the Protected Areas Strategy and regional land use planning.

Renewable Power Sales Incentive Program

The Renewable Power Sales Incentive Program is a joint initiative of the Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation. It encourages the consumption of available surplus hydro electricity to displace fossil fuels used for space and water heating for general service, government and industrial customers. The program guarantees a return on investment to customers who install the equipment necessary to purchase secondary power. It also provides technical services such as feasibility planning and building design, financial assistance like interest abatement, loans and capital contributions, electronic power dispatch and a building energy management reporting service.

Green Power Initiative

The Yukon government's Green Power Initiative encourages renewable energy production in an environmentally sustainable manner. Its objectives are to displace diesel electricity production and reduce greenhouse and other gas emissions, especially in communities only served by diesel generation; to provide consumers with a green power option; to expand the technical capability to develop green power alternatives; and to improve the long-term cost effectiveness of green power energy sources. The program will achieve these goals through research and development, demonstration projects, targeted technical information, development of standards and youth education projects.

Energy Solutions Center

The Canada/Yukon Energy Solutions Centre is a joint initiative led by Yukon Development Corporation and Natural Resources Canada. It provides technical services to facilitate energy solutions for residential, commercial and government consumers and to improve the delivery and effectiveness of federal and territorial energy programs. It contributes to training and development of Yukon expertise and conducts public awareness and outreach activities relating to energy and climate change.

Domestic Hot Water Timer Project

The Domestic Hot Water Timer Pilot Project is an initiative of the Yukon Development Corporation to help determine the compatibility of household hot water consumption use with pre-programmed control timers. The timers will be moved to new residences each year for 3 years to test their suitability in a total of 150 homes. The pilot project is a trial run for a broader peak reduction program for hot water tanks, which will help to decrease the reliance on diesel generation.

Parking Lot Timer Project

The Parking Lot Timer Pilot Project is an initiative of the Yukon Development Corporation to reduce energy use through the installation of temperature sensitive parking lot timers. The device triggers at a certain temperature and increases the flow of power to a vehicle as the weather becomes colder. The pilot project has been initiated at six locations in Whitehorse and data will likely be compiled for three years. This information will be reviewed to examine a broader application of the program to reduce energy use during peak winter hours and decrease the reliance on diesel generation.

Mayo-Dawson Transmission Project

This initiative will connect the City of Dawson to the Mayo hydro plant to make use of surplus electricity. Connecting Dawson (and residents between Mayo and Dawson) to the grid will eliminate primary dependence on diesel generators. While this project was first considered in 1991/92, it was only recently that it became economically justifiable. Bids will be reviewed in spring 2001 and the new transmission line should be complete by the end of 2002.

C 2000

The objective of C 2000 is to encourage increased energy efficiency and environmental performance in commercial buildings through enhanced awareness and understanding among building owners and through training courses for building designers and construction contractors.

EnerGuide for Houses

A national program sponsored by Natural Resources Canada and delivered by the Yukon Housing Corporation to rate the energy efficiency of existing housing. It provides site visits by energy auditors who test the home to determine its energy rating and consult with occupants on suggested improvements. Yukon Housing provides low-interest financing to help carry out the energy auditor's recommendations.

Green Mortgage Program

A Yukon Housing Corporation that encourages energy-efficient construction and the use of local labor and building materials through preferred mortgage rates. Homes must meet a strict energy budget.

Home Repair Program

Yukon Housing Corporation offers low interest loans for repair and upgrading of existing dwellings to meet current building code standards of safety and comfort. This includes financing for energy efficiency upgrades and often works in conjunction with the Residential Energy Management Program.

R 2000

A national program sponsored by Natural Resources Canada and delivered by the Canadian Home Builders Association setting standards for energy efficiency and air quality in residential construction. R 2000 promotes comfortable, healthy, low-maintenance, energy-efficient housing through training, builder registration and certification, performance standards, inspection, testing, research and development, and information.

Trade training

The Yukon Housing Corporation in cooperation with Yukon College and other institutions sponsors various courses for trades people on energy related subjects. These courses include heating systems, ventilation systems as well as R 2000 technologies.

Consumer Training

Yukon Housing has been offering a Self Help Course (Construction Management) for the last 8 years. Each course has 12 modules with a strong emphasis on energy related matters.

Home Shows

The Yukon Housing Corporation sponsored Home Shows in conjunction with the Canadian Home Builders Association during 1999 and 2000. These shows included an energy focus.

Waste Watch

This curbside compost collection pilot project was implemented by the City of Whitehorse in 1996. Approximately 230 participating households separate their waste into compostables, recyclables, hazards and garbage. While residents take their recyclables and hazards to a recycling depot, the City collects compostables and garbage on alternate weeks. The objectives of this initiative are to reduce residential waste by 50%, turn waste into compost, and reduce methane gas by diverting organics from the landfill.

Energy Audit

An energy audit was completed for City of Whitehorse facilities such as office buildings and arenas in 1998. The audit produced information about energy consumption rates and costs. Results of this audit have been used to identify priorities for building maintenance initiatives and retrofits to improve energy consumption and reduce costs.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory for Whitehorse

The City of Whitehorse is planning to conduct an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions using the Federation of Canadian Municipalities database software. This will produce baseline data for sources of emissions within both the community and the City operations. This is seen as the first step towards developing programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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